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Berlin, Summer 2007

# Das Schwarze Korps

ZEITUNG DER SCHUTZSTAFFELN DER NSDAP  
Organ der Reichsführung //

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Official newsletter of Panzergruppe West

# *Achtung!!*



*Greetings kameraden...I would like to take a moment and update you on a few points of interest. I would like to bring to your attention after discussing the matter with all senior NCOs we have raised the yearly dues to \$20, this is in part to help cover several costs that will be needed in the future, one of which is the reprinting of the Das Schwarse Korps newsletter, and as a side note if you have any ideas for what you would like to see, or pics or*

*video to share please send them to me or to Kriegsberichter karl vossler ([seawolf61244@yahoo.com](mailto:seawolf61244@yahoo.com)), also the dues are to help the purchase of cufftitles and other assorted items, limited ammo purchases and such things, but I wish to stress the dues will NOT be used for vehicle maintenance.*

*Also check out the event Schedule in this issue, but for a current and up to date list please check the following sites for dates and times and any needed registration forms*

*[www.panzergruppewest.us](http://www.panzergruppewest.us) or [www.20thctsg.org](http://www.20thctsg.org) under the event sections.*

*In namen der Korp*

*Untersturmfuhrer*

*Michael Volker*

*[lordkalel@qconline.com](mailto:lordkalel@qconline.com)*

*Page 1.*

## FUN IN THE SNOW

Black smoke belched from the twin exhaust stacks in back of the Tiger as the engine rumbled awake in a coughing roar. Several white camouflaged Panzer Grenadiers moved away quickly to keep from breathing in the stinking exhaust and to hear themselves above the sound of the massive engine as it warmed up in the chilly morning. All around the area Waffen SS Soldats quickly checked their weapons, ammo, and to better adjust their “Y”straps and equipment belts to a more comfortable load, all the while waiting for the call to form up... UnterSturmFuehrer Volker walks over to the side of the tank and calls up to the SturmBannFuehrer Kowalski who is perched in the commander’s hatch to discuss the details of the up coming maneuver, With a quick nod Volker calls out to the NCOs to get the Grenadiers into formation, and to prepare to head out.. With loud voices but no shouting the Scharfuhrers bring the lines into formation and orders are issued. Several head to the front of the rapidly forming column, as others swarm in to the back of an idling halftrack. .its exhaust blue and hanging in the air....



SturmBannFuehrer Kowalski in the commanders hatch of *THOR*.. Panzer #433

The weather outside is cold, snow is falling, and a slight breeze is blowing, making it feel even colder, and to those in the back of the open top halftrack, with all the metal around them adds to the effect. The first to lead off is a motorcycle with side car carrying a passenger with a MG34, next to fall in line is several footsoldiers all carrying weapons at the ready. Next up is UnterSturmFuehrer Volker along with a radio man close on his heels, then it’s the halftrack, the squeaking of its tracks is extra loud in the morning air, the men in back are glad to not have to try and walk on the slippery road but, at least if they had been walking they would have been warmer, but its seems to be a even trade.. following behind is a few more Grenadiers on foot, but not far behind is the dark shape of the Tiger, big massive, noisy and deadly to the lightly armored American Sherman tanks, one round is usually all it takes to knock out a Sherman. Down the road they march in slow formation, each keeping a prescribed distance from each other for safety and for quick deployment if needed. American troops were reported in the area, and each man despite the frigid conditions all keep a wary eye out, there is no joking or unnecessary talking.

As they march on the slippery surface they follow a left hand bend in the road, and as they make the turn they pass a man on the side of the road holding a video camera... Wait a second, a video camera ? But they didn't have those in January 1944... No but this was March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2007, and these men were not marching across some wooded area in Europe, but in South Bend Indiana, to help film scenes for a Weather channel special on the *Battle of the Bulge* . It was a full days labor working in the cold weather which were very close to reported conditions over 60 years ago. Mike Lipe or as many know him as Volker, who is the Commanding Officer of PanzerGruppe West whose main unit is the 9<sup>th</sup> SS *Hohenstaufen* and who is also President of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Studies group said that *"The weather definitely cooperated in the filming"* about 40 reenactors in both German and American uniforms braved the cold and weather, to take part in the event. Filing included but was not limited to just marching, several fighting sequences were filmed from both the German and American view points. One re enactor made the following remark : *"its important to do this, to show what our grandparents suffered and went through, as time goes on history is distorted and warped by the politically correct dogma that is out there, same thing when any re enactor goes out to a public event and meets and greets the public, most have no idea who or what we try to portray, the public schools will not or cannot teach what really happened, so its up to people like us to step up and tell the real story"*



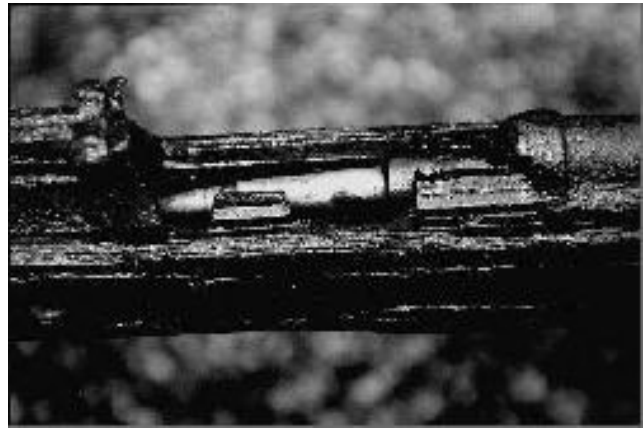
The air date for this Weather channel special is tentatively set for the fall of 2007 .

LEFT:  
Panzergrenadiers advance forward under a barrage of Allied mortar and small arms fire in a open field.

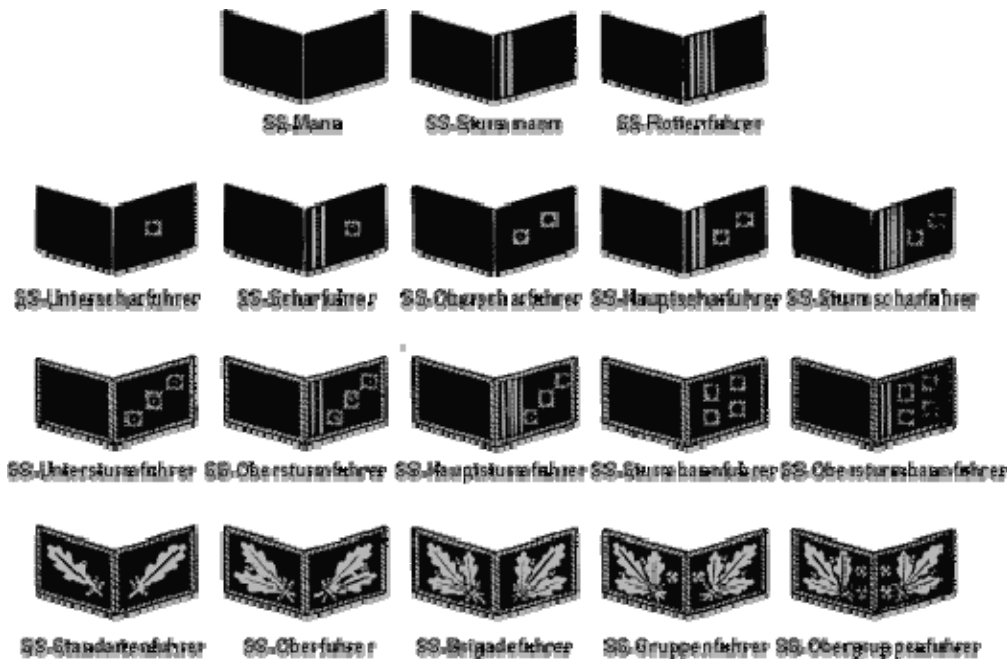


LEFT: A Armored column moves out in search of enemy forces.

## World War 2 Today...



The photos above show the dramatic discovery of a German Gewehr 43 rifle in the Ardennes in 1999. Top left; the signal of the detector pointed out that there was something quite large at a depth of about 40cm on the bottom of a creek. So a little dyke was built to get rid of all the water. At first the archaeologist tries to feel in the water to locate anything by touch. Even a US Army mess tin lid (found nearby) is used to dig. Eventually a long black leather strap as used on (German) rifles comes into view. The combination of this and the strong signal from the detector is a good sign of something special. With most of the water gone, they had to make their way through dozens of rocks and a lot of red clay. (not mention a lot of nasty little buzzing mosquitoes and bugs). Because of the clay, weapon-oil and grease combination what was unearthed was a near perfectly preserved Gew '43. After a little bit of restoration they managed to slide the bolt back and found that besides a full magazine of ammunition there was an 11th round in the chamber (photo above). This is presumably why the rifle was discarded by its owner. He was likely either a Volksgrenadier of 277th VG Division or perhaps a Paratrooper from the 5th FJ Division, both units operational in this part of the Ardennes during December 1944.



## *Know your ranks!*

One of the most important facets of reenacting is to be as authentic as possible, and in doing so you will be required to know the rank system. Not only is this useful in the field it also gives the Soldat a goal to work for, and once it is earned by hard work in knowing what jobs and responsibilities each rank requires, it will then be worn with pride on your uniform, and it will show other members and other units that you have taken the time and trouble to go to events, practiced the manual of arms and to show you made that extra bit of effort in your impression. But by also earning your rank, you might be called upon to take over command of your Zug in a moment when all other higher ranks have been killed or captured in the course of a tactical event.

# Fotos...



# Event Schedule

July 27-29  
Stephenson Co. Fairgrounds  
Freeport, IL.  
Public display & Battles  
Contact: Ryan Hiser  
[Leutant\\_1\\_110pzgren@yahoo.com](mailto:Leutant_1_110pzgren@yahoo.com)

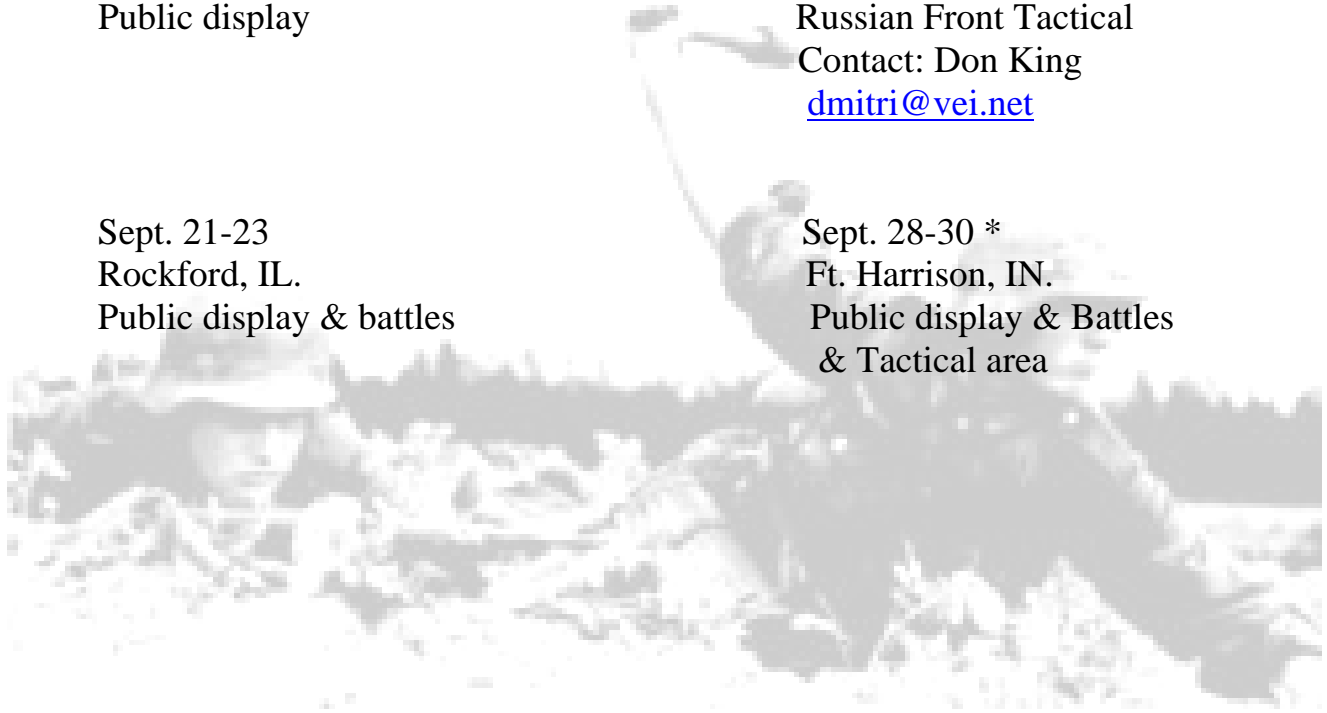
Aug 3-5 \*  
Western Front tactical  
Ft. Custer, MI.  
Tactical  
Contact: Mike Lipe  
[lordkale@qconline.com](mailto:lordkale@qconline.com)

Aug 24-26 \*  
Indianapolis IN. Air show  
Public display

Sept. 14-15  
Marion, KY.  
Russian Front Tactical  
Contact: Don King  
[dmitri@vei.net](mailto:dmitri@vei.net)

Sept. 21-23  
Rockford, IL.  
Public display & battles

Sept. 28-30 \*  
Ft. Harrison, IN.  
Public display & Battles  
& Tactical area



\* tiger tank will be in attendance

Thank for your interest in our reenactment group, which portrays SS Panzergruppe West. We are a multi-organizational TSG reenacting group comprised of units held on the Western Front during the invasion and defense of France. We currently have members portraying personnel of the 9<sup>th</sup> SS Hohenstaufen, 10<sup>th</sup> SS Frundsberg, and the 12<sup>th</sup> Hitlerjugend divisions, but many others are possible.

By reenacting we have created a unique opportunity to recreate these units and to battle along side each other and against Allied units that portray those that fought in World War 2.

As a reenactment group it is important to stress that we are NOT a political group nor are we a para-military organization. Through the staging of public exhibitions, and displays, lectures and reenactments of WW2 battles, our number one goal is to educate the public and promote awareness and understanding of the history of the war years from 1939-1945, with specific emphasis placed on the military aspects of WW2.

In addition to the education of the public into the history of WW2, it is our desire to foster a general understanding of the typical German soldier, and to bring to life the fact that he was a man first, locked in a struggle to survive a war he hoped to see the end of, something that makes him a brother to all soldiers, of all nations, in all wars.

## **Panzergruppe west**

“Honoring the Veterans Through Reenacting”

For info contact: Mike Lipe (309-762-0212)

E-Mail: [lordkalel@qconline.com](mailto:lordkalel@qconline.com)

# Panzergruppewest Unit Application

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ years If under 18 can you provide proof of parental consent Y\_\_\_ / N\_\_\_

Reason for wanting to be a member of the 9<sup>th</sup> SS Panzer Divison Hohenstaufen, Regt 19?

Any special qualifications or skills which you would like to share which would make you an asset to our organization? \_\_\_\_\_

Any special interests? (I.E. Living history, tactical events, being on a mortar team etc)

Any known medical conditions or restrictions that we should be made aware of ? \_\_\_\_\_

Any WWII period vehicles owned ? \_\_\_\_\_

Any other prior or existing reenactment organization memberships? If yes then who?

Prior rank and do you have verification of same? (Please note that this does not mean that this will carry over, but it is important for us to know your qualifications if any)

Last 4 digits of your social security number to use as your SS ID number: \_\_\_\_\_

May we publish your name/phone number in the unit roster ? Y\_\_\_ / N\_\_\_

WW2 German weapons owned, and are all weapons legally owned? Y\_\_\_ / N\_\_\_

TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note that the 9<sup>th</sup> SS Hohenstaufen reenactment unit of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Tactical Studies Group Inc. does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, nationality, sex, physical limitations and/or sexual orientation.

I the undersigned certify that I will not use this organization for the furtherment or goals of any radical and/or subversive organizations to include but not limited to any : NAZI, KKK, or any other hate groups, Communist, Socialists, or any other similar subversive or threatening organizations. I will uphold all the safety and authenticity rules and will not endanger anyone in the reenactment community.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is subject to approval and can be revoked at any time

Please mail application to: Mike Lipe 3818 15<sup>th</sup> street A Moline, Illinois 61265

# After action report

2006 TSG National Battle

Well the dust/Snow has settled and I am finally able to sit down and put all my notes in order for all to see. First off I would like to thank all the participants that were able to make it to this years national battle. I also want to thank my staff and base personnel for a excellent job, well done! Especially with mother nature doing her best to disrupt our plans. My sympathies go out to those unable to attend and who may still be without power. We were still able to field over 200 re enactors from 18 states for this battle. It was great to see many old friends and make a lot of new ones. The allied unit present consisted of members form these units: First Special Service Force, 1stID, 2ndID, 2ndSAS, 3rdArmored, 4thID, 4thArmored, 5thRangers , 6thCav, 12thPolish Lancers, elements of the 82nd+101st Airborne and the Royal Ussler Rifles. On the Axis side: 1stSS, 2ndSS, 2nd Panzer, 3rd+4th FJ, 5th Gebirgs, 8th Luft FD, 9thSS, 9thPanzer, 18thLuft FD, 116th panzer GrossDeutschland and Panzer Leir .....my apologies if I missed anyone. A special thanks goes out to those vehicle owners who braved the weather to bring out your toys. On the allied side there was a m36 Jackson giving the Germans fits all day along with a m20 scout car and 57mm AT gun. The axis forces had a 222 armored car, a Opel radio truck and a IG gun. I must say that the Craig village mount site creates some of the fiercest battles I have ever been a part of, with house to house and room to room fighting. grenades were a precious commodity! Many of the combatants were low or out of ammo only a few hours into the battle. In the first battle the Allies held the town to start. the second battle the axis controlled the village at the start. During the third battle(my favorite) both forces started outside the village and tried to take control as they entered, with both forces low on ammo and supplies the battle came down to hand to hand with rubber knives. I look forward to our next battle in the village. I am very pleased to say that authenticity was great and there were no safety issues. Great Job one and ALL. See you in the field.

Mike Lipe

President 20thCTSG

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[www.20thctsg.org](http://www.20thctsg.org)

AKA: UnterSturmFuhrer Volker

[www.panzergruppewest.us](http://www.panzergruppewest.us)



*Schweige!*

**DU BRINGST MICH IN GEFAHR**